



**image**

223

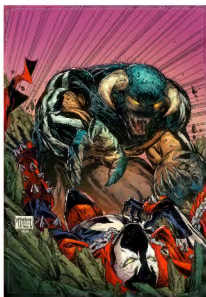
DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN OF THE DEAD



**TODD McFARLANE**  
**SZYMON KUDRANSKI**





## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Richard Masullo confronted Jim in the heart of Rat City, in what appeared to be the beginning of another epic showdown.

To Jim's surprise, Richard's intent was not to fight, but instead, the man once known as "Tremor" came seeking a cure for his monstrous curse. In exchange, he would help Jim uncover truths about the clandestine military project they had once been connected to.

As discoveries were made, Jim and Richard's focus shifted to one man, a rogue government operative known only as "The Agent" – the same man who hired the Extractor and Patient 46 to attack Jim during the epic "End Game" saga.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn... and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**The Program** – A clandestine military operation with deep-rooted ties to events from throughout Spawn's 20-year existence. Hidden within the secrets of The Program, also known as Project: RAGNOROK, lies the truth Jim seeks, and the dark heart of a past better left buried.



**Richard Masullo (Tremor)** – Transformed into the hulking monster known as Tremor by the same clandestine government program that Jim Downing once oversaw, Richard is a man on a mission, crossing the country to confront Jim about their shared past – but is he friend or foe?



**The Agent** – A mysterious man with unknown ties to Jim's past. "The Agent" is responsible for hiring superpowered hitmen for a variety of illegal and, more often than not, violent tasks, including two previous attacks on Jim – the Extractor's firing assault on the hospital (issues #186-188) and the rampage of Patient 46 (issue #198).

# TODD McFARLANE

WRITER/PLOT

# SZYMON KUDRANSKI

ART

# FCO PLASCENCIA

COLOR

# TOM ORZECOWSKI

LETTERING

# JON GOFF

PLOT

# TODD McFARLANE

PARODY COVER ARTIST

# TODD McFARLANE

EDITOR

Managing Editor  
JEN CASSIDY

Art Director  
BEN TIMMRECK

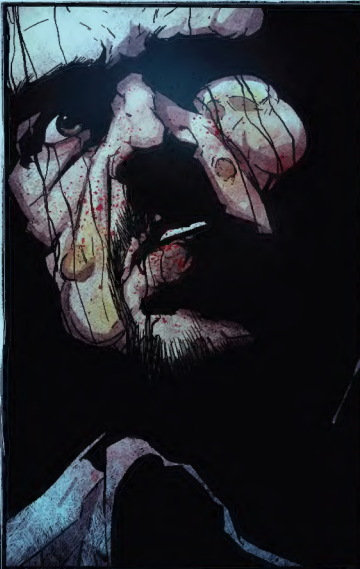
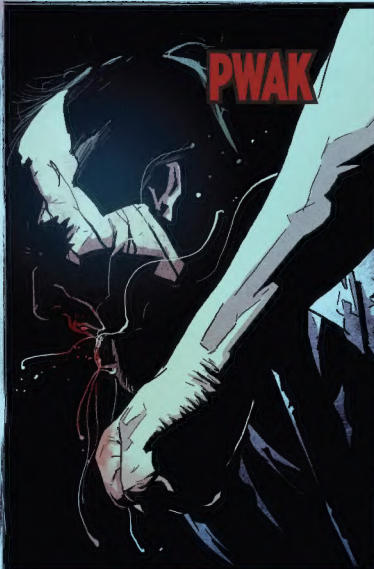
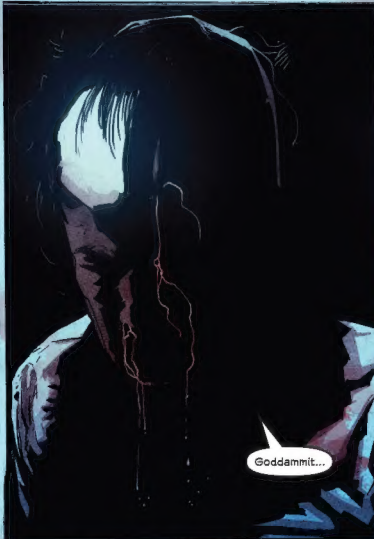
Publisher For Image Comics  
ERIC STEPHENSON

SPAWN CREATED BY  
TODD McFARLANE

**image**

**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS  
**SPAWN.COM**

Spawn #223. Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2134 Allston Way, Second Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704, \$2.99 USA. Spawn, its logo and its symbol are registered trademarks © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All other related characters are TM and © 2012 Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. With exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane Productions, Inc.







BECAUSE  
WE DON'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU.



AND IF YOU DON'T  
**QUICKLY** REGAIN YOUR  
MEMORY-- THEN THE POUNDING  
I'VE BEEN GIVING YOU WILL BE  
**NOTHING** COMPARED TO WHAT MY  
CLOAKED FRIEND HERE CAN DO. AND  
I'VE SEEN HIM IN ACTION-- SO I  
PROMISE YOU-- YOU DON'T  
WANT HIM PISSSED OFF.

YOUR  
HEART WON'T  
BE ABLE TO  
TAKE IT.

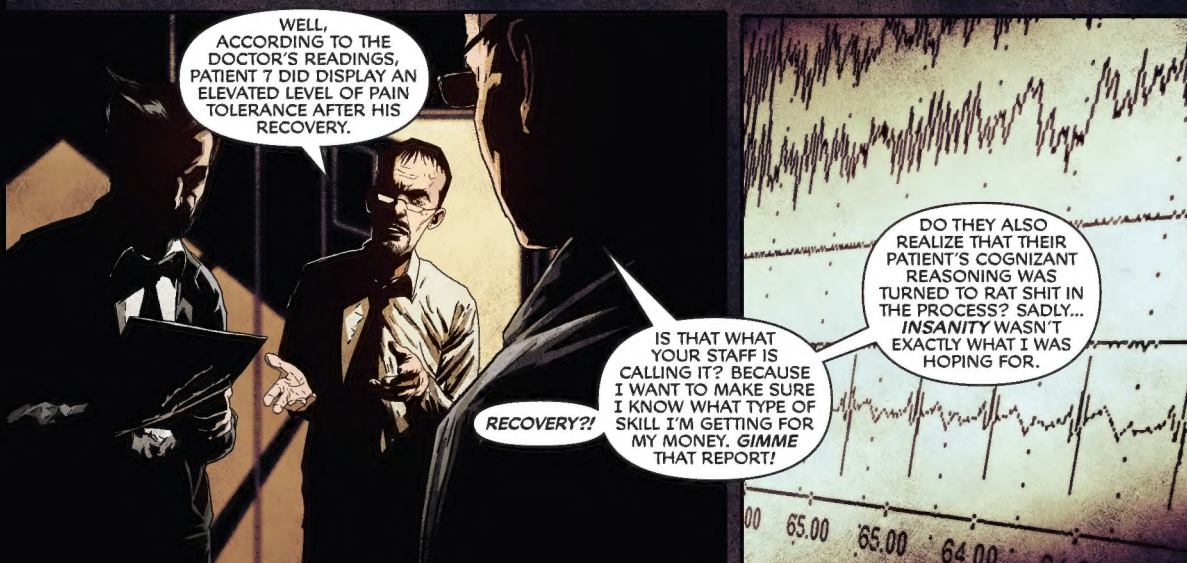
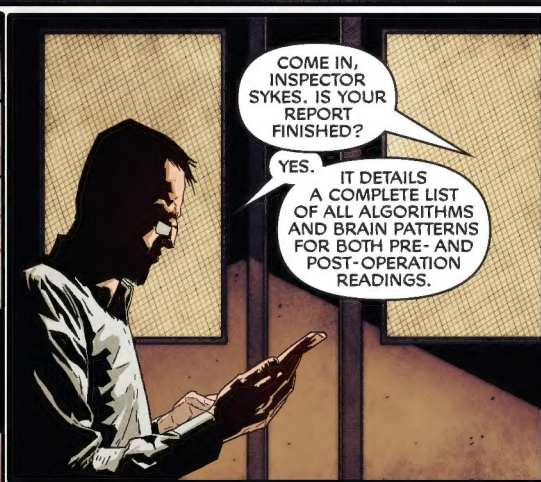
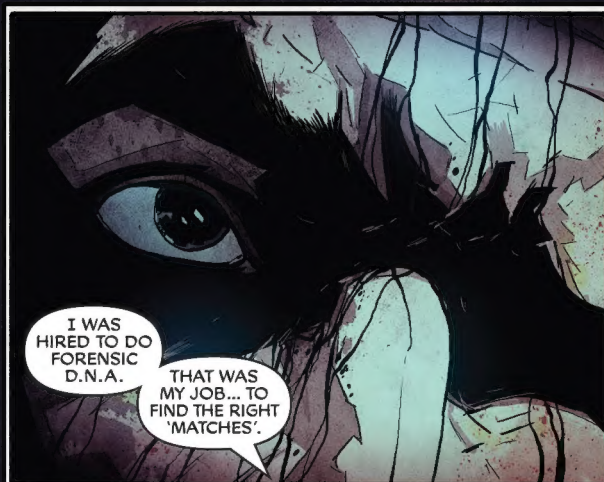
LOOK... YOU  
ALREADY KNOW... I JUST  
WORKED THERE A SHORT  
TIME-- THEY ONLY CONSULTED  
ME ON A COUPLE OF THEIR  
LONG TERM AGENDAS. I  
NEVER WORKED ON **ANY**  
OF THE EXPERIMENTS  
DIRECTLY!

COOL.

THEN LET'S  
CHAT ABOUT THOSE  
"COUPLE AGENDAS"--  
AND WHERE **EXACTLY**  
YOU FIT IN.



Years earlier.



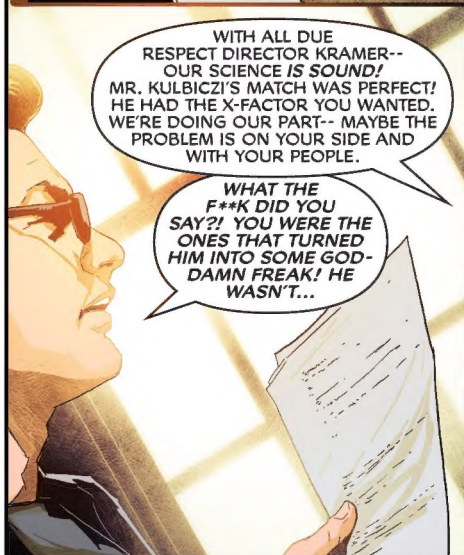




I UNDER-  
STAND.

DO  
YOU?

THEN WHY  
THE HELL IS NONE  
OF THIS WORKING?  
IT'S BEEN OVER A  
YEAR! I'M STARTING  
TO DOUBT THE  
VALIDITY OF YOUR  
SCIENCE.



WITH ALL DUE  
RESPECT DIRECTOR KRAMER--  
OUR SCIENCE IS SOUND!  
MR. KULBICZI'S MATCH WAS PERFECT!  
HE HAD THE X-FACTOR YOU WANTED.  
WE'RE DOING OUR PART-- MAYBE THE  
PROBLEM IS ON YOUR SIDE AND  
WITH YOUR PEOPLE.

WHAT THE  
F\*\*K DID YOU  
SAY?! YOU WERE THE  
ONES THAT TURNED  
HIM INTO SOME GOD-  
DAMN FREAK! HE  
WASN'T...



OKAY-- OKAY,  
THAT'S ENOUGH,  
GENTLEMEN!

WE CAN FINISH  
THIS DISCUSSION  
ONCE WE'VE THOROUGHLY  
HAD THE CHANCE TO REVIEW  
YOUR REPORT, INSPECTOR.  
THANK YOU FOR COMING  
AND WE'LL CALL YOU  
TOMORROW-- RIGHT  
AFTER LUNCH.

LUCKY  
ME.



LOOK, KRAMER--  
WE'VE GONE OVER  
THIS A DOZEN TIMES! THE  
GOVERNMENT NEVER SAID THIS  
WOULD WORK RIGHT OUT OF THE  
GATE. IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO  
BE A WORK IN PROGRESS. AND  
ACCORDING TO THOSE CHARTS,  
PROGRESS WAS MADE--  
HOWEVER SMALL. YOUR  
JOB IS TO FOSTER THAT  
MOMENTUM.

SO WE  
CAN BOTH  
GET TO THE ULTIMATE  
RESULTS WE'RE  
LOOKING  
FOR.

THEN...  
I'M GOING TO  
NEED MORE  
PATIENTS. LOTS  
MORE.





YOU DIDN'T PICK  
D.N.A. 'MATCHES'--  
**YOU PICKED PEOPLE!**  
**JUST LIKE ME!!** AND YOU  
ROBBED US OF EVERYTHING  
WE EVER HELD DEAR.  
SO, YOU TELL ME-- IN  
WORDS AS SIMPLE AS  
POSSIBLE...



WHAT  
DID I HAVE  
INSIDE ME THAT  
MADE ME SO  
SPECIAL?

YOU  
WOULDN'T  
UNDER-  
STAND.

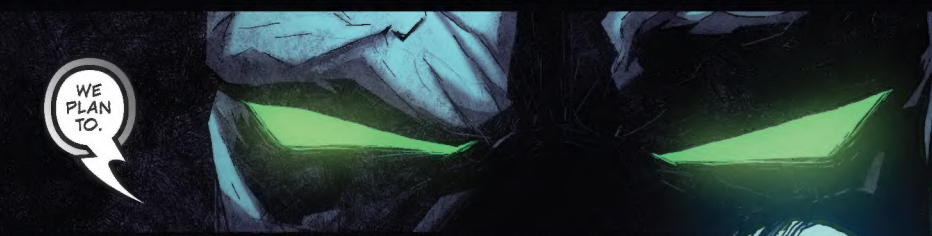


THEN  
HUMOR  
US.



YOU SAID  
YOU HAD THE  
FILES FROM  
THE 'PROJECT'.  
IT SHOULD  
ALL BE IN  
THERE...

JUST  
READ  
IT.



WE  
PLAN  
TO.

BUT HE  
ASKED YOU A  
QUESTION.



THE PEOPLE  
YOU WORKED  
ON-- WHAT WERE  
YOU LOOKING  
FOR? WHAT WAS  
THE GOAL? AND  
HOW LONG WAS  
IT SUPPOSED  
TO LAST?

I DON'T  
KNOW... I  
WAS GONE  
BY THEN.

IT DOESN'T  
MATTER, YOU HELPED  
FIND SOME OF THEM!  
HOW MANY MORE WERE  
YOU WILLING TO SACRI-  
FICE BEFORE SOMEONE  
SAID ENOUGH? I KNOW  
IT WASN'T TWENTY. OR  
**THIRTY!** OR EVEN  
**FORTY!**

**FORTY-  
SIX!**

THAT  
WAS IT?!  
THAT WAS  
THE LAST ONE  
THEY WORKED  
ON BEFORE  
BEING SHUT  
DOWN.

THERE  
WEREN'T  
ANY  
MORE?

NO.





THEN  
HOW DO  
YOU  
EXPLAIN  
ME?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

I'M **FORTY-SEVEN!!**  
I'M THE LAST ONE THEY  
EXPERIMENTED ON! THE  
LAST ONE THEY CREATED!  
SO I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN.  
WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING  
FOR WHEN YOU WERE  
IN THOSE LABS?

THE SAME THING  
EVERYONE WANTED--  
**PERFECTION!** THEY WANTED  
TO CREATE A FLAWLESS HUMAN  
BEING. FOR WHAT PURPOSE?  
I DON'T KNOW, THEY NEVER  
TOLD ME. MY JOB WAS TO  
JUST FIND THOSE THAT  
ALIGNED WITH THEIR  
SPECS.

WHAT  
ELSE?

I TOLD  
YOU I DON'T  
KNOW! THEY DIDN'T  
LET ME INTO THEIR  
SECRET MEETINGS  
OR CONFERENCE  
CALLS.

THEN YOU'RE  
GOING TO HAVE TO  
**DIG** A LITTLE DEEPER  
INTO YOUR MEMORY.  
AND I'LL HELP WITH  
THE '**DIGGING**'  
PART.

THOSE  
BUMPS UNDER  
YOUR SKIN-- CAN YOU  
FEEL THEM MOVING?  
MULTIPLYING?  
THEY'RE BUGS.



UNGH...!

WHAT'S THE  
MATTER? IS IT  
HURTING?

HERE...  
LET'S SEE WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN THEY  
BEGIN EATING  
YOUR BRAIN!



YEEEEAAAAAAA

NOW TELL ME--  
WHO HAD THE MOST  
TO LOSE? I ASSUME  
NO ONE WAS HAPPY NEAR  
THE END. I WANT TO KNOW  
WHO HAD THE POWER TO  
KEEP IT GOING EVEN  
AFTER IT WAS SHUT  
DOWN?

AND FOR  
WHAT  
PURPOSE?



ARG



NO!  
THAT'S  
UNACCEPT-  
ABLE!



I UNDERSTAND  
THE STRESS EVERYONE  
IS UNDER-- I FELT THE SAME  
WAY IN THE BEGINNING--  
BUT I'VE POURED TOO MANY  
YEARS OF MY LIFE INTO THIS!  
SO DON'T SIT THERE AND TELL  
ME YOU'RE HITTING A DEAD  
END AND THAT OUR  
PROGRESS IS PLATEAUEING!  
FIND THE CATALYST  
YOU NEED.

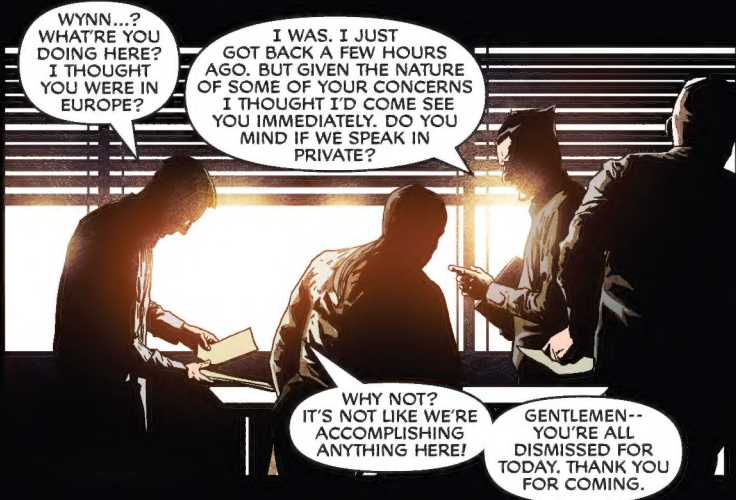


WE'VE TRIED.  
BELIEVE ME-- NONE OF  
US WANTED TO HAVE THIS  
MEETING. BUT THE FACTS REMAIN:  
WE'VE DONE THREE DOZEN  
EXPERIMENTS WITH NOMINAL  
SUCCESS. AND OUR LAST FOUR  
PATIENTS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE  
TO NO ADVANCEMENT OVER  
THEIR PREDECESSORS.

**KNOCK  
KNOCK**

COME  
IN.





WYNN...?  
WHAT'RE YOU  
DOING HERE?  
I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE IN  
EUROPE?

I WAS. I JUST  
GOT BACK A FEW HOURS  
AGO. BUT GIVEN THE NATURE  
OF SOME OF YOUR CONCERNS  
I THOUGHT I'D COME SEE  
YOU IMMEDIATELY. DO YOU  
MIND IF WE SPEAK IN  
PRIVATE?

WHY NOT?  
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE  
ACCOMPLISHING  
ANYTHING HERE!

GENTLEMEN--  
YOU'RE ALL  
DISMISSED FOR  
TODAY. THANK YOU  
FOR COMING.



SO...  
WHAT'S  
THIS?

A REPORT  
ON BIOLOGICAL  
ENHANCEMENTS. I  
THINK YOU'LL FIND IT  
A FASCINATING READ,  
THOUGH THEIR RESULTS  
ALSO COME WITH  
BOTH PROS AND  
CONS.



UM--  
INSPECTOR SYKES--  
I'D LIKE TO GET  
YOUR INPUT ON  
THIS MATTER. SO,  
PLEASE... STAY.

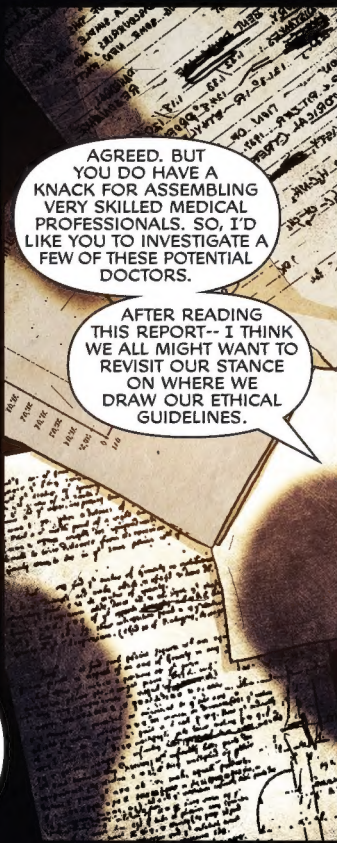
IT SAYS MOST  
OF THESE EXPERIMENTS  
WERE DONE THROUGH  
COVERT MEANS, DECADES  
AGO. HOW DOES  
THAT TIE INTO OUR  
PROGRAM?

BECAUSE I THINK  
WE'VE BEEN OVER-THINKING  
OUR GOALS. TRYING TO CREATE  
NEW SCIENCE WHEN PERHAPS  
SOME OF IT WAS RIGHT  
UNDER OUR NOSES.



I'M NOT  
SURE  
I UNDER-  
STAND.

BIO-  
ENHANCEMENTS  
AREN'T MY FIELD OF  
EXPERTISE. IT'S TO FIND  
THOSE WHO HAVE THE  
MOST SKILLS IN SPECI-  
ALIZED FIELDS. THAT'S  
HOW I'VE BUILT MY  
STAFF AND FOUND  
YOUR PATIENTS.




AGREED. BUT  
YOU DO HAVE A  
KNACK FOR ASSEMBLING  
VERY SKILLED MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONALS. SO, I'D  
LIKE YOU TO INVESTIGATE A  
FEW OF THESE POTENTIAL  
DOCTORS.

AFTER READING  
THIS REPORT-- I THINK  
WE ALL MIGHT WANT TO  
REVISIT OUR STANCE  
ON WHERE WE  
DRAW OUR ETHICAL  
GUIDELINES.








UNDER WHOSE  
AUTHORITY DID YOU  
PUT THIS REPORT  
TOGETHER?

BECAUSE IF WE  
CONTEMPLATE ANY OF WHAT'S  
IN HERE-- IT'LL COMPROMISE AND  
TAINT EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE.  
TYING OURSELVES TO THE NAZI REGIME...  
THAT'S *CORPORATE SUICIDE!* I KNOW  
WE'VE BENT SOME RULES IN THE  
PAST, BUT THIS-- THIS ISN'T THE  
KIND OF THING WE DO!




YOU'RE  
WRONG.

THIS IS  
EXACTLY  
WHAT WE  
DO.



AFTER THAT, OUR  
WHOLE MISSION BEGAN  
TO CHANGE. NEW POLICIES...  
DIFFERENT PROTOCOLS. ALL  
WERE PUT IN PLACE WITHOUT ANY  
INPUT FROM THE DOCTORS  
ON STAFF. THEN THEY BROUGHT  
IN THEIR OWN HAND SELECTED  
PHYSICIANS. THAT'S WHEN  
I KNEW MY DAYS WERE  
NUMBERED.

YOU CAN'T IMAGINE  
THE FRICTION ALL THAT CAUSED.  
BUT THEN WE TURNED A CORNER.  
DESPITE THE NIGHTMARES THAT  
WERE PLAYING OUT IN THE OPERATING  
ROOMS-- WE BEGAN GETTING  
IMPROVED RESULTS. WE EVEN  
THOUGHT THIS 'NEW DIRECTION'  
HAD LED US TO OUR FIRST  
SUCCESS.



I JUST GOT  
OUT OF A MEETING AND  
EVERYONE FEELS CONFIDENT OUR  
NEWEST PATIENT WILL CONTINUE  
SHOWING IMPROVEMENT. HIS GENE  
SPLITTING AND SUBSEQUENT HEALING  
ARE RIGHT ON TRACK, AND HIS BODY  
HAS ACCEPTED HIS NEW ORGAN  
TRANSPLANTS. THE ONLY MINOR  
CONCERNS FROM THE DOCTORS IS  
THERE SEEMS TO BE A FEW GAPS  
IN THE META-SEQUENCING  
RATES.

THOUGH  
I'M TRYING  
TO GET MY  
HEAD WRAPPED  
AROUND  
THAT RIGHT  
NOW.

ANY TIME  
FRAME ON  
THAT?

YEAH, TWO  
MONTHS AGO! BUT  
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT  
THESE CHARTS THEY  
REMINDE ME OF  
SOMETHING.



I'M SURE  
IT'LL COME TO  
YOU. BUT YOUR  
RECENT EFFORTS ARE  
TO BE COMMENDED.  
I'M SURE THE  
PRESIDENT  
WILL BE...

THAT'S  
IT!

WE DID  
A PROGRAM  
YEARS AGO  
SANCTIONED BY  
THE BOSNIAN  
PRESIDENT. I  
KNEW THOSE  
CHARTS LOOKED  
FAMILIAR!





LET ME GRAB  
SOMETHING.

I WANT TO  
CROSS  
REFERENCE  
A FEW  
READINGS.



My  
god.

YOU FIND  
SOMETHING?

**THEY LINK UP!**  
IF WHAT I THINK IS  
TRUE, THEN I'VE FOUND  
OUR CONNECTION.  
I'VE FOUND WHY  
THERE'S A GAP!



YOU  
SAID SYKES  
WAS ABOUT TO  
CHECK OUR NEXT  
POTENTIAL  
SUBJECT. DON'T  
LET HIM!



I WANT TO  
DO IT MYSELF.  
I WANT TO MAKE  
SURE WE DON'T  
HAVE ANY MORE  
ERRORS.

HERE'S  
HIS FILE.





THAT'S WHEN  
IT REALLY BEGAN--  
WHEN KRAMER STARTED  
TO LOSE HIS GRIP ON  
REALITY. HE POURED ALL  
HIS ENERGY INTO MAKING  
SURE YOU WERE GOING  
TO BE 'THE ONE'! HE  
CONVINCED ALL OF US THIS  
WAS FINALLY GOING TO  
BE OUR BIG BREAK-  
THROUGH.

BUT  
I DIDN'T  
WORK OUT--  
DID I?

DID  
I?

NO.

AND HE BLAMED  
EVERYTHING AFTER  
THAT ON YOUR FAILURE--  
BECOMING OBSESSED AND  
PARANOID AT TRYING TO  
REDEEM HIMSELF AND  
THE PROJECT.

HE  
HATED YOU,  
RICHARD.  
YOU COULD  
FEEL IT.

YOU  
CAN'T  
KNOW  
THAT!

YOU'RE  
LYING!!

AAAARGGHHH





I WANT THE TRUTH!

THAT IS... THE TRUTH. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES. HE WAS... F\*\*KING CRAZY!

SO YOU WANT ANSWERS TO WHAT THE HELL WAS GOING ON THERE-- ASK HIM! IT WAS HIS BABY!

AND HE TOOK US **ALL DOWN** WHILE FIGHTING HIS INSANITY! EVERYTHING WE'D WORKED FOR... HE TOOK FROM US!



LOOK AT ME.

WHAT?

LOOK AS DEEP AS YOU CAN AND TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE.



KRAMER ... ?

IS THAT YOU?





**I DON'T  
KNOW!!**

THAT'S WHAT  
I'M TRYING TO FIND  
OUT! I CAN'T  
REMEMBER!

SO IF  
RICHARD DIDN'T  
WORK OUT-- WHY  
DID THEY STILL  
GO ON?!

BECAUSE  
HE WOULDN'T  
STOP! EVER!


SO IT  
WAS WYNN  
THAT DID  
THIS  
TO ME?

YOU'RE NOT  
LISTENING! IT...  
WAS... KRAMER!  
IT WAS ALWAYS  
KRAMER!


WYNN JUST  
BEGAN PLAYING  
ON HIS... ON  
YOUR... INSTABILITY.  
AND WYNN WAS  
VERY GOOD AT  
THAT...



MANIPULATING  
OTHERS TO GET WHAT  
HE WANTED



BUT YOU ALWAYS KNEW  
WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES  
WERE OF HIS REQUESTS.  
EVEN WHEN HE ASKED YOU  
TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN  
INFORMATION FROM YOUR  
NEAREST COMPETITOR.



REMEMBER HOW HE  
PLAYED YOU? KNOWING  
YOU WOULDN'T EVER BACK  
DOWN? HE TOOK  
ADVANTAGE OF THAT.



HE KNEW EXACTLY WHAT  
BUTTONS TO PUSH.

IF YOU  
DON'T WANT THIS  
TO FAIL-- YOU'LL  
NEED TO GAIN HER  
TRUST. HER COMPANY  
HAS BEEN AN INDUSTRY  
LEADER FOR YEARS  
NOW IN SOME OF  
THE AREAS WE  
CAN'T QUITE  
MASTER.

I ALSO  
UNDERSTAND NOT  
WANTING TO MIX  
BUSINESS WITH THE--  
PERSONAL-- RELATIONSHIP  
YOU CURRENTLY HAVE  
WITH MS. GEBHARD...  
BUT SHE HAS WHAT  
YOU NEED.

I GOT A  
CALL TODAY  
SAYING SOME OF  
THE ECONOMIC  
REFORMS BEING  
PROPOSED IN SPAIN  
AND ITALY STILL MIGHT  
NOT HAVE ENOUGH  
IMPACT TO TURN  
AROUND EUROPEAN  
BUSINESSES  
OR THEIR  
EMPLOYMENT  
NUMBERS.

I'VE BEEN  
HEARING THE SAME  
THING. AND IT'S JUST  
GOING TO CONTINUE  
IMPACTING GLOBAL  
GROWTH AS  
WELL.

AT  
LEAST  
MY APPLE  
STOCK IS  
HOLDING  
UP.

QUIT  
GLOATING.  
MY  
PORTFOLIO'S  
STILL  
TANKING.

REBECCA...

CAN I  
CHANGE THE  
SUBJECT FOR  
A MINUTE?

LOOK AT  
YOU GETTING  
ALL SERIOUS.  
IS SOMETHING  
WRONG?

NO. NOT  
REALLY.

THEN  
WHAT'S  
ON YOUR  
MIND?

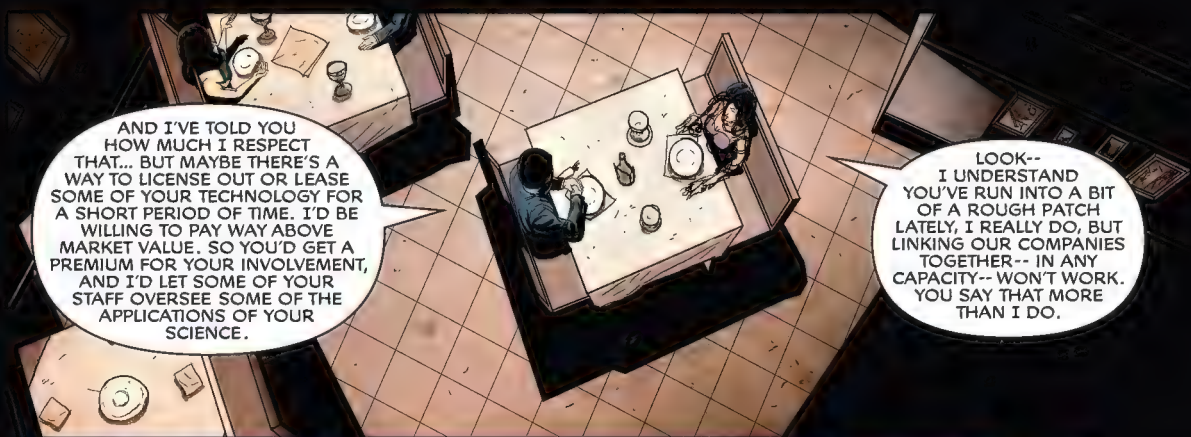
I KNOW WE SAID THAT  
WE'D KEEP OUR PROFESSIONAL  
LIVES OUT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP  
BUT... BUT I'M AT A CROSSROADS  
AND YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT  
I THINK CAN HELP.

COME ON...  
LET'S NOT DO THIS.  
I'VE TOLD YOU I'M NOT  
WILLING TO COMPROMISE  
EITHER MY COMPANY  
OR MYSELF.

NONE OF MY  
PATENTS ARE FOR SALE.  
I DON'T KNOW IF THINGS WILL  
CHANGE IN A YEAR OR TWO,  
BUT MY COMPANY HAS DECIDED  
TO STICK WITH OUR OWN  
INTERNAL GOALS FOR NOW.  
SO, I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU  
OUT, DARLING.

BUT I  
CAN'T.





AND I'VE TOLD YOU HOW MUCH I RESPECT THAT... BUT MAYBE THERE'S A WAY TO LICENSE OUT OR LEASE SOME OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. I'D BE WILLING TO PAY WAY ABOVE MARKET VALUE. SO YOU'D GET A PREMIUM FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT, AND I'D LET SOME OF YOUR STAFF OVERSEE SOME OF THE APPLICATIONS OF YOUR SCIENCE.

LOOK-- I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE RUN INTO A BIT OF A ROUGH PATCH LATELY, I REALLY DO, BUT LINKING OUR COMPANIES TOGETHER-- IN ANY CAPACITY-- WON'T WORK. YOU SAY THAT MORE THAN I DO.



AND IN MOST CIRCUMSTANCES THAT EVALUATION IS RIGHT. BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT. WE'RE GETTING DOWN TO OUR LAST FEW BIO-TRANSMITTABLE SPLICES AND I KNOW YOUR CUTTING EDGE...

**STOP!**

YOU'RE STARTING TO RUIN WHAT HAS, SO FAR, BEEN A PRETTY ENJOYABLE EVENING. SO UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO COMPLETELY LOSE MY APPETITE... I'D SUGGEST WE CHANGE THE SUBJECT.



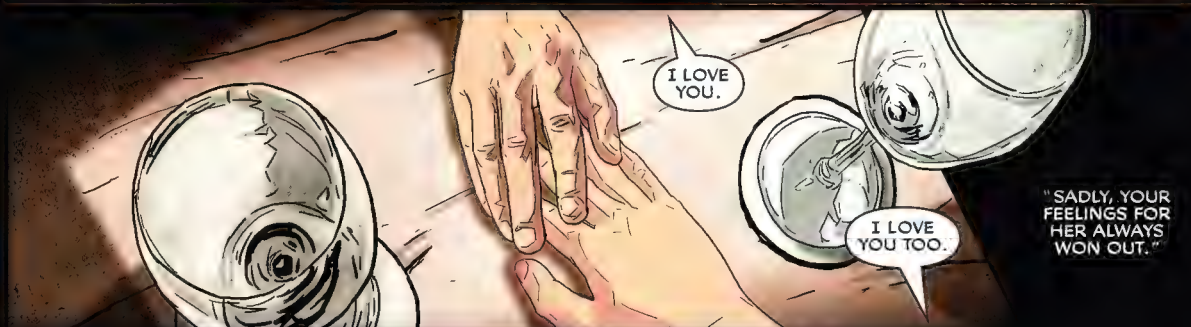
WHY? JUST GIVE ME ONE REASON.



IT'S THE SAME ONE I'VE ALWAYS HAD.

I DON'T **TRUST** THOSE YOU'RE WORKING WITH. ESPECIALLY WYNN.

GOT IT. I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU. I'M SORRY.



I LOVE YOU.

I LOVE YOU TOO.

"SADLY, YOUR FEELINGS FOR HER ALWAYS WON OUT."



**BULLSHIT!**

**KBASH**

THEN WHY  
DID I KILL HER?  
I REMEMBER  
THAT PART!\*

\* See flashback issue #216-- Todd

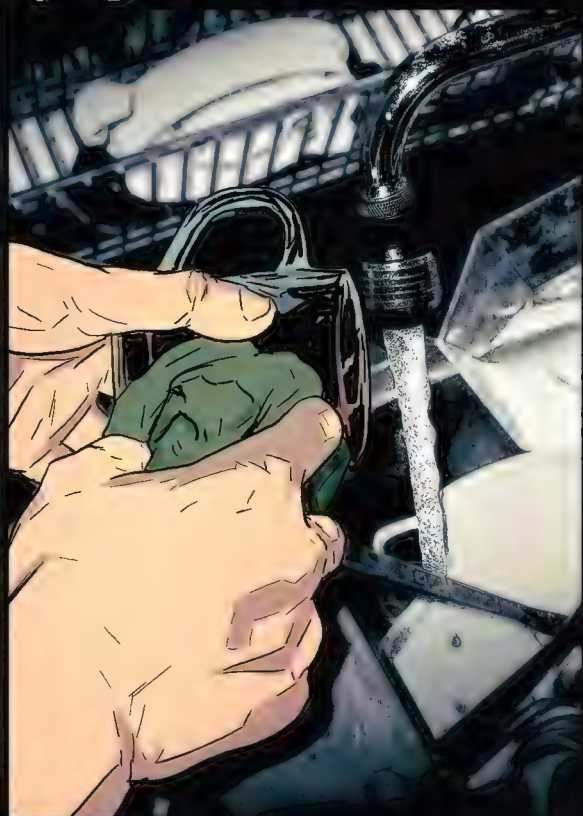
UNGGG...!

I... NEVER  
SAID... YOU  
DID.

TALK.



"I WAS GONE BY THEN, BUT... BUT  
I HEARD THEY KEPT PUSHING YOU.  
AND AS MUCH AS YOU WANTED THE  
PROJECT TO SUCCEED-- THERE WERE  
SOME LINES YOU WOULDN'T CROSS."







"THEY MISTAKENLY ASSUMED  
YOU WOULDN'T FOREGO  
EIGHT YEARS OF YOUR LIFE  
FOR... A WOMAN."





"AND NO MATTER HOW  
MANY TIMES YOU ASSURED  
THEM YOU'D HANDLE  
THINGS, OR HOW MANY  
TIMES YOU DISCUSSED IT...

"I THINK  
EVENTUALLY  
THEY JUST GOT  
TIRED... OF  
TALKING."







NEXT ISSUE:  
**WYNN... AT ANY COST!**







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE